

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-19, and 21-51 are pending. Claims 15-19 have been allowed. Claim 6 is canceled. Claim 20 was previously canceled.

Claims 10, 26, and 41-45: Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In claim 10, “the vehicle body” been amended to --the vehicle bed-- to provide proper antecedent basis. Claim 26 has been amended to change “the pivot member” to --a pivot member-- to provide antecedent basis. Claim 41 has been amended to fix minor typographical errors.

Claims 1, 4-9, 21-24, 26, 46, and 49-51: Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 4-9, 21-24, 26, 46, and 49-51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Dunlop *et al.* (5,641,262) and Corley, Jr. (3,700,123).

Claim 1 as amended now recites:

1. A liftgate assembly, comprising:
a unitary frame comprising an opposing pair of side plates and an extension plate extending between the side plates;
a hydraulically driven lift frame pivotally attached to the side plates;
a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the lift frame and supported at one end only; and
impact bumpers attached to the side plates.

Dunlop *et al.* and Corley, Jr. do not teach all of the elements recited in claim 1. Claim 1 is thus allowable over Dunlop *et al.* and Corley, Jr. Claims 4-9 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 21 as amended now recites:

21. A method for providing a cantilever liftgate comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a unitary frame comprising an opposing pair of side plates and an extension plate extending between the side plates;
 - (b) pivotally attaching a lift frame to the side plates;
 - (c) rotatably attaching a liftgate platform to the lift frame so that the platform is supported at one end only; and
 - (d) attaching impact bumpers to the side plates.

Dunlop *et al.* and Corley, Jr. do not teach all of the elements recited in claim 21. Claim 21 is thus allowable over Dunlop *et al.* and Corley, Jr. Claims 22-24 and 26 depend from claim 21 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 46 as amended now recites:

46. A method for providing a cantilever liftgate, comprising the steps of:
- (a) providing a unitary frame comprising an opposing pair of side plates and an extension plate extending between the side plates;
 - (b) pivotally attaching a lift frame to the side plates;
 - (c) rotatably attaching a liftgate platform to a pivot member of the lift frame so that the platform is supported at one end only;
 - (d) attaching a motion limit member to the pivot member of the lift frame; and
 - (e) attaching impact bumpers to the side plates.

Dunlop *et al.* and Corley, Jr. do not teach all of the elements recited in claim 46. Claim 46 is thus allowable over Dunlop *et al.* and Corley, Jr. Claims 49-51 depend from claim 46 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 2-3, 10-14, 25, 27-35, and 47-48: Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2-3, 10-14, 25, 27-35, and 47-48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Dunlop *et al.* (5,641,262), Corley, Jr. (3,700,123), and Fretwell *et al.* (5,556,250).

Claim 1 as amended now recites:

1. A liftgate assembly, comprising:
- a unitary frame comprising an opposing pair of side plates and an extension plate extending between the side plates;
 - a hydraulically driven lift frame pivotally attached to the side plates;
 - a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the lift frame and supported at one end only; and
 - impact bumpers attached to the side plates.

Dunlop *et al.*, Corley, Jr., and Fretwell *et al.* do not teach all of the elements recited in claim 1. Claim 1 is thus allowable over Dunlop *et al.*, Corley, Jr., and Fretwell *et al.* Claims 2-3 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 10 as amended now recites:

10. A vehicle liftgate assembly comprising:

a vehicle having a substantially horizontal vehicle bed; and
a liftgate comprising:
a unitary frame, the unitary frame comprising an opposing pair of side plates configured to be secured to an underside of the vehicle bed and an extension plate extending between the side plates;
an actuator driven lift frame pivotally attached to the side plates;
a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the lift frame and supported at one end only; and
impact bumpers attached to the side plates.

Dunlop *et al.*, Corley, Jr., and Fretwell *et al.* do not teach all of the elements recited in claim 10. Claim 10 is thus allowable over Dunlop *et al.*, Corley, Jr., and Fretwell *et al.* Claims 11-14 depend from claim 10 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 21 as amended now recites:

21. A method for providing a cantilever liftgate comprising the steps of:
(a) providing a unitary frame comprising an opposing pair of side plates and an extension plate extending between the side plates;
(b) pivotally attaching a lift frame to the side plates;
(c) rotatably attaching a liftgate platform to the lift frame so that the platform is supported at one end only; and
(d) attaching impact bumpers to the side plates.

Dunlop *et al.*, Corley, Jr., and Fretwell *et al.* do not teach all of the elements recited in claim 21. Claim 21 is thus allowable over Dunlop *et al.*, Corley, Jr., and Fretwell *et al.* Claim 25 depends from claim 21 and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 27 as amended now recites:

27. A liftgate, comprising:
a unitary frame including an opposing pair of side plates and an extension plate extending there between, each of the side plates having an upper edge adapted for attaching to an underside of a body;
a lift frame pivotally attached to the side plates of the unitary frame and having a pivot member;
a platform having a first side rotatably attached to the pivot member of the lift frame, the platform being supported at the first side only;
a motion limiting stop attached to the lift frame adjacent the pivot member and configured to limit a motion of the platform; and
impact bumpers attached to the side plates.

Dunlop *et al.*, Corley, Jr., and Fretwell *et al.* do not teach all of the elements recited in claim 27. Claim 27 is thus allowable over Dunlop *et al.*, Corley, Jr., and Fretwell *et al.* Claims 28-35 depend from claim 27 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 46 as amended now recites:

46. A method for providing a cantilever liftgate, comprising the steps of:
- (a) providing a unitary frame comprising an opposing pair of side plates and an extension plate extending between the side plates;
 - (b) pivotally attaching a lift frame to the side plates;
 - (c) rotatably attaching a liftgate platform to a pivot member of the lift frame so that the platform is supported at one end only;
 - (d) attaching a motion limit member to the pivot member of the lift frame; and
 - (e) attaching impact bumpers to the side plates.

Dunlop *et al.*, Corley, Jr., and Fretwell *et al.* do not teach all of the elements recited in claim 46. Claim 46 is thus allowable over Dunlop *et al.*, Corley, Jr., and Fretwell *et al.* Claims 47-48 depend from claim 46 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 36-40: Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 36-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Dunlop *et al.* (5,641,262) and Fretwell *et al.* (5,556,250).

Claim 36 as amended now recites:

36. A vehicle body assembly including a vehicle body and a cantilever liftgate, the cantilever liftgate comprising:
- a unitary frame comprising an opposing pair of side plates and an extension plate extending there between, the side plates having upper edges configured to be attached to an underside of the vehicle body;
 - an actuator driven lift frame pivotally attached to the side plates;
 - a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the actuator driven lift frame; and
 - impact bumpers attached to the side plates.

Dunlop *et al.* and Fretwell *et al.* do not teach all of the elements recited in claim 36. Claim 36 is thus allowable over Dunlop *et al.* and Fretwell *et al.* Claims 37-40 depend from claim 36 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

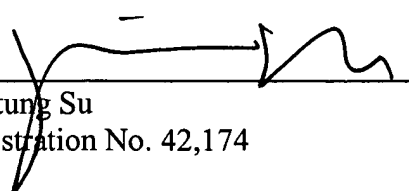
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the objections and rejections have been addressed. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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